

CONDITION OF TRADE.

NO NOTEWORTHY CHANGES

Organized Industries Circles—What the Organization of Labor has Effected—Breadstuffs and Provisions—Wool, Iron and Steel Markets—Exports and Imports.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Special telegrams to *Bradstreet's* this week show the same irregularity in the general trade conditions reported from week to week for over a month past. The most encouraging ac-

Des Moines, Milwaukee and Memphis. At Chicago there has been an increase in the number of mail orders received, and more buyers from the interior were present there. As at most points announcing a gain in the value of merchandise distributed, the improvement is chiefly felt in

dry goods. The general brightening of the weather during the week is responsible for much of the gains.

While there are no new features in the situation at Boston, business there is in a slightly better shape. Most staple lines in Philadelphia are dull, except in iron

and steel and reading textiles, which are more active. The opening of navigation at Baltimore results in better trade there. On the other hand, at Cincinnati business is not so active; at St. Paul it is generally quiet, and at San Francisco it is quiet and irregular. There has been no gain at Pittsburgh. St. Louis advices are that trade is improving slowly.

Results due to the organization of labor are seen in the meeting of the Western coal miners at Columbus, O., the success of the striking New York cigar makers, the stubborn attitude of the striking coke burners, as well as the fact that most all of the eastern cotton mills will pay a 10 percent advance in wages in the spring. Prices in all lines are as high as last year at this time and in some lines 50%

Wool prices are not so firm, as to-day's quotations are light but prices are yet unchanged. Stocks of common are very low. The demand for fine fleeces is fair. It is believed that manufacturers will take liberally in the near future, thus promising

Wheat has been more active for export and options have felt the influence of prices advancing all around. On a renewed speculative interest part of the gain has been lost, but cash No. 2 red at New York closed at 92½ against 91½ one week ago. The export demand has not been fully maintained, and it is premature to expect either renewed exports or an advance in prices based on a question of de-

Indian corn has been irregular and lower on heavy receipts. No. 2 closed at 50½c against 54c a week ago. Wheat flour is about 10 cents higher per barrel and the production is increasing, but the market is duller at the advance.

Provisions have tended upward with wheat and corn, but speculative influences have prevented any special display of strength.

Exports of dairy products are light. Coffee and sugar prices are unchanged and grocery staples generally are depressed.

Pig iron is slightly stiffer, owing to a

change in price or demand. Less complaint is heard as to the quality of steel rails. Old rails are lower and weaker.

Business Failures.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—R. G. Dun & Co. report the business failures for the past week as follows: United States, 214; Canada, 34; a total of 248 against 235 last week and 275 the week previous. More than half of the failures occurred in the West and South.

Exports and Imports.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—The total value of imports of merchandise

dise during the 12 months ended January 31, 1896, were \$600,748,374, and during the 12 months ended January 31, 1885 \$617,-

values of exports of merchandises during the 12 months ended January 31, 1886, were \$905,070,777 and during the preceding 12 months \$755,000,405, a decrease of \$150,242,020.

EDISON DON'T AGREE

With the Decision of the Indiana Court in

CINCINNATI, Feb. 26.—Mr. Edison, the well known inventor, spent a day here on his way to Florida with his bride. To one of his many callers, he spoke of the recent telephone decision in Indiana, saying: "If that decision is to be followed, the Patent Office might as well be shut up, as inventors will not produce patents if they cannot be backed by capital. Such a doctrine is fatal to patents and progress. It has proved so in England, where Parliament, not only fixed the rates, but provided for the purchase of electric

value without any consideration of the good will. The consequence is that the development of electric light in England has been stopped.

"It would be hopeless to attempt to raise capital for an invention if the Legislature fixes the compensation for the use of the patent, understand the patent rights of the inventor, between the whole people of the United States and the inventor that, if he will produce something new and useful, they will give him a monopoly of it for seventeen years, and then that they are to have it for all time. I believe that Indiana law will be pronounced unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States."

THE RAIL TO SAN FRANCISCO THREE DOLLARS LESS THAN YESTERDAY'S FIGURES.
CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—Railroad stock

were turned upside down again this morning by a cut in rates to Omaha and St. Paul on first-class passenger tickets of \$3. There was a meeting yesterday of all the roads interested in Northwestern business, which lasted until 4 p. m. The Rock Island insisted that there be no change in the running time between St. Paul and Chicago if it agreed to sustain

roads now make the run in sixteen hours, while the Rock Island, Chicago, Burlington and Quincy and the Illinois Central have a much longer route. The Northwestern and St. Paul both refuse to do this, as they propose soon to make the run in fourteen hours.

Immediately after the meeting the St. Paul, having purchased a first class limited ticket over the Rock Island at \$9.50, made six stops out to Omaha and St. Paul to

\$30.00. This is a very deep cut and it affects the business of all Nebraska and all Colorado. It also makes San Francisco \$3 cheaper than yesterday. First class tickets, Chicago to San Francisco, this morning cost only \$30.00. Before the rate war they cost \$84.60, first-class limited.

SHILOH'S CATARRH REMEDY—A positive cure Catarrh, Diphtheria, and Canker Mouth.